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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Etsuo OOGAMI
Title: MODULE BATTERY
Appl. No.: 10/608,133
Filing Date: 06/30/2003
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: 1753

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicant in order to comply with Applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicant does not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

In a counterpart Japanese application, a Japanese Office Action issued on June 8, 2004. According to an English translation obtained by Applicant's representative of the Japanese Office Action, the Japanese Patent Office made certain characterizations of the references.

According to the Japanese Office Action, document A1 teaches a battery structure for an electric automobile, wherein:

- multiple cylindrical battery cells are housed connected to one another in a casing;
- inside of the battery cell is divided into multiple partition rooms with multiple rib walls;

- battery casing has vent holes on the upper and lower walls so that cooling air can flow vertically inside of each partition room;

- multiple rib walls are arranged so that the grooves are formed along the direction of the periphery and in contact with the battery cells' outer surface;

- sealant is filled at both sides of the battery casing to seal off the partition rooms where the protruding terminals of battery cells are placed;

- and there are a pair of protruding outer terminals which go through an end partition room's upper wall of the battery case;

in order to achieve optimal battery performance by preventing dust and moisture from getting to the electronic connection part of the protruding terminals. (Especially refer to Claims 2, 4 and [0048].)

According to the Japanese Office Action, document A2 discloses technology to laminate thin type batteries to form a module battery.

According to the Japanese Office Action, document A3 teaches a cooling structure for electric parts in an electric automobile, wherein the outside air is filtered to prevent the negative effect of dust and moisture contained in the cool air on the electric parts.

As noted, the characterizations of the Japanese Patent Office noted above are based on an English translation obtained by Applicant's representative. The disclosure of these characterizations should not be construed as an admission of or agreement to the opinions expressed in the Japanese Office Action.

Document A4 discloses a battery pack.

Document A5 discloses a battery module.

English translations of the foreign-language documents are not readily available. However, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). English language abstracts are provided herewith.

Applicant respectfully requests that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.


The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date July 1, 2004

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5414
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399

By

 34371

Richard L. Schwaab
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 25,479

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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: July 1, 2004 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	10/608,133
				Filing Date	06/30/2003
				First Named Inventor	Etsuo OOGAMI
				Group Art Unit	1753
				Examiner Name	Unassigned
				Attorney Docket Number	040302-0329

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Sheet	1	of	1
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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	A1	JP	9-086188	A	SONY CORP.	03-31-1997		Abst.
	A2	JP	2001-256934	A	OSAKA GAS CO., LTD.	09-21-2001		Abst.
	A3	JP	11-180169	A	HONDA MOTOR CO., LTD.	07-06-1999		Abst.
	A4	JP	2002-157982	A	SHIN KOBE ELECTRIC MACH. CO., LTD.	05-31-2002		Abst.
	A5	JP	2001-143768	A	MAKITA CORP.	05-25-2001		Abst.

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.